

Sweetheart Fur & Feather Show

The Gallatin County 4-H Rabbit and Poultry project kids are hosting their annual "Sweetheart Fur and Feathers Show" and Animal & Supply Sale at the Gallatin County Fairground's Wild West WinterFest on Saturday, February 14, 2009. The poultry and rabbit shows will run concurrently beginning at 9:00 am. Registration will be 8:30-9:00 am. Anyone who enters online will need to pay any entry fees at this time. Anyone looking for a good quality rabbit or bird for their project or even a cage to house or carry the animal is welcome to come to our sale throughout the day. Prices are usually very reasonable. Anyone who wants to put items in the auction is welcome. We limit the amount of animals to five per person. If you want to sell more animals just put a sign up on your cages in the viewing area. Please give us a list of your sale items when you turn in your registration. At noon, we will take a short lunch break and then continue the judging. At 2:00 pm we will begin poultry showmanship. Classes will be divided according to age. Anyone wanting to learn how to show a bird can ask a local 4-Her for pointers before the showmanship classes start. At 3:00 pm there will be a rabbit derby where we race rabbits. We have a special box/tunnel and blow through straws to make the bunnies move. There will be extra bunnies for people to borrow so they can join in the fun. Come join us for a day of fun!!

Rabbit Questions: Karissa Woienski at 451-5515, hollandsnangoras@yahoo.com

Poultry Questions: Betsy Heckel at 388-7578, betsyheckel@aol.com

As a friendly reminder, all exhibitors over the age of 10 are required to pay for admittance to the Wild West WinterFest. Daily admission will be \$4 at the gate or \$7 for a 3-day ticket that may be purchased in advance at the Fairgrounds Office or at the WinterFest Gates.

Host Homes Needed

Host homes are needed for youth and young adults from abroad who come to Montana as part of Montana State University Extension 4-H programs. While family settings are needed for the 4-H aged youth visitors, any adult can host the young adults visiting as part of the International 4-H Youth Exchange or "IFYE" program, said Stephanie Davison, director of the international programs at MSU's 4-H Center for Youth Development. The young adult visitors come from farming backgrounds in their home countries, and often look forward to the experience of providing a helping hand on Montana farms and ranches. "Our 4-H aged visitors are between the ages of 12 and 18," Davison said. "For that group, we need host families who have a child within two years of the age and the same gender as the visitor."

Visitors this year are confirmed from Japan, Scotland and Ireland, and others may be arriving from Switzerland, Costa Rica, Finland and Austria. They typically arrive during the summer months and stay 4 weeks in the case of the 4-H youth exchange and several months for the IFYE program. The visits are an opportunity for Montanans to learn about other cultures, and in some cases lifelong friendships have been formed with later opportunities for reciprocal visits. Ralen Dupuis from Polson, whose family has hosted three times, says being with his host brother, Yutaro Shindo of Japan, made for "the best time of my life." To find out more about hosting a foreign delegate, contact Stephanie Davison at (406) 994-3502 or e-mail her at sdavison@montana.edu.

Girls for a Change

Mark your calendars for the 2009 day-long conference in Bozeman, Saturday, February 28. This year's theme is The Courage to Climb and Keynote Speaker, Dr. Luanne Freer, will inspire girls as she talks about the volunteer medical clinic she set up at the base of Mt. Everest. Workshops will focus on giving back to your world (service), protecting your world (environment), understanding your world (culture), caring for yourself in your world (self care) and expression in your world (art, crafts). Contact the Extension Office for more details.

District 6: Bowling in Bozeman!

Youth 12 and up are invited to attend a bowling event at the Bozeman Bowl on Feb 22 at 2:02 PM. Come and meet the District 6 Ambassadors and Junior Leaders from 6 counties in southwest Montana. The cost is only \$7 per person and includes shoes and a couple of games. Come prepared to have some fun and meet some 4-Hers like you from Lewis & Clark, Broadwater, Wheatland, Meagher, Sweet Grass and Park counties.